

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the listing below, which replaces and supersedes all previous listings of the claims.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for protecting epithelial tissue during photodynamic therapy induced using a pre-photosensitizing agent, the method comprising the steps of:
administering a pre-photosensitizing agent to epithelial tissue and a targeted treatment site underlying the epithelial tissue;
preventing metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in the epithelial tissue, while allowing the pre-photosensitizing agent to metabolize into a photosensitizing agent in tissue at the targeted treatment site; and
irradiating the targeted treatment site to activate the photosensitizing agent at the targeted treatment site, wherein the epithelial tissue is substantially unaffected,
wherein the step of preventing metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in epithelial tissue comprises creating a temperature gradient between the epithelial tissue and tissue at the targeted treatment site.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the temperature gradient is created before the step of irradiating.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the temperature gradient is created by cooling the epithelial tissue.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of cooling comprises the step of positioning a contact device containing a cooling medium on the epithelial tissue.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the cooling medium is selected from the group consisting of a solid, liquid, and a gas medium.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the contact device further includes a radiant energy source that is effective to heat tissue at the targeted treatment site.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the contact device is transparent for allowing radiant energy from the radiant energy source to pass therethrough.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the contact device is removed from the epithelial tissue before the targeted treatment site is irradiated with light.
10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the contact device is coupled to a light source for irradiating the targeted treatment site.
11. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the epithelial tissue is cooled concurrently while the targeted treatment site is irradiated with light.
12. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the epithelial tissue is cooled to a temperature that differs from a temperature of tissue at the targeted treatment site by at least about 5° C.
13. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the epithelial tissue is cooled to a temperature that is equal to or less than about 25° C.
14. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the epithelial tissue is cooled to a temperature in the range of about 20° C to -5° C.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the temperature gradient is created by cooling the epithelial tissue and heating tissue at the targeted treatment site.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the tissue at the targeted treatment site is heated to a temperature that is equal to about 25° C.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the tissue at the targeted treatment site is heated to a temperature in the range of about 25° C to 40° C.
18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of heating the tissue at the targeted treatment site comprises delivering a radiant energy source to the tissue.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the radiant energy source is selected from the group consisting of visible light, infrared light, microwave energy, ultrasound, and radiofrequency energy.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for protecting epithelial tissue during photodynamic therapy induced using a pre-photosensitizing agent, the method comprising the steps of:

administering a pre-photosensitizing agent to epithelial tissue and a targeted treatment site underlying the epithelial tissue;

preventing metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in the epithelial tissue, while allowing the pre-photosensitizing agent to metabolize into a photosensitizing agent in tissue at the targeted treatment site; and

irradiating the targeted treatment site to activate the photosensitizing agent at the targeted treatment site, wherein the epithelial tissue is substantially unaffected,

wherein the targeted treatment site comprises malignant cells, and the step of irradiating the targeted treatment site ~~with light~~ is effective to substantially destroy the malignant cells.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for protecting epithelial tissue during photodynamic therapy induced using a pre-photosensitizing agent, the method comprising the steps of:

administering a pre-photosensitizing agent to epithelial tissue and a targeted treatment site underlying the epithelial tissue;

preventing metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in the epithelial tissue, while allowing the pre-photosensitizing agent to metabolize into a photosensitizing agent in tissue at the targeted treatment site; and

irradiating the targeted treatment site to activate the photosensitizing agent at the targeted treatment site, wherein the epithelial tissue is substantially unaffected,

wherein the targeted treatment site comprises a patient's sebaceous glands, and the step of irradiating the targeted treatment site ~~with light~~ is effective to treat acne.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for protecting epithelial tissue during photodynamic therapy induced using a pre-photosensitizing agent, the method comprising the steps of:

administering a pre-photosensitizing agent to epithelial tissue and a targeted treatment site underlying the epithelial tissue;

preventing metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in the epithelial tissue, while allowing the pre-photosensitizing agent to metabolize into a photosensitizing agent in tissue at the targeted treatment site; and

irradiating the targeted treatment site to activate the photosensitizing agent at the targeted treatment site, wherein the epithelial tissue is substantially unaffected,

wherein the targeted treatment site comprises a patient's hair follicles, and the step of irradiating the targeted treatment site ~~with light~~ is effective to substantially remove hair associated with the hair follicles.

23-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the tissue at the targeted treatment site is heated to a temperature that is greater than 25° C.

45-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of irradiating the targeted treatment site comprises maintaining at least a portion of the targeted treatment site at a temperature in a range between about 25°C and about 40°C.

48. (Previously Presented) A method for protecting epithelial tissue during photodynamic therapy induced using a pre-photosensitizing agent, the method comprising the steps of:

administering a pre-photosensitizing agent to epithelial tissue and a targeted tissue underlying the epithelial tissue;

preventing metabolism of the pre-photosensitizing agent in the epithelial tissue, while allowing the pre-photosensitizing agent to metabolize into a photosensitizing agent in the targeted tissue; and

irradiating the epithelial tissue and the targeted tissue, with the targeted tissue at a temperature in a range between about 25°C and about 40°C during the irradiation, to activate the photosensitizing agent in the targeted tissue without substantially affecting the epithelial tissue.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the epithelial tissue and the targeted tissue are irradiated with the epithelial tissue at a temperature that is less than the temperature of the targeted tissue.

50. (Canceled)